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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. October 5, 1955
DATE

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Answering questions concerning the possibility of unification of Togoland and the Cameroons, the French representative declared that differences in political and social institutions, which have grown up since the departure of the Germans, would make it extremely difficult for early unification of the territories. He favored continuation of the territories' political development under the existing French and British philosophies.

Meeting of Nigerian Governors in London (UNCLASSIFIED)

Governor General Sir James ROBERTSON left Lagos on October 2 with Eastern Governor Sir Clement PLEASS for a week of meetings with the Colonial Secretary in London. Since Northern Governor Sir Bryan SHARWOOD-SMITH and Western Governor Sir John RANKINE are now in the United Kingdom, all of Nigeria's regions will be represented.

It is probable that the major topic for discussion will be the 1956 constitutional convention.

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POLITICAL

Action Group Comments on Political Trends in Gold Coast (UNCLASSIFIED)

A front-page editorial in the AG's Nigerian Tribune discussed the political pressure in the Gold Coast for modification of the Gold Coast constitution in the direction of federation. The editorialist was sympathetic to the move for greater regional autonomy and declared that the Gold Coast "will not be any less united under federation than it has been under a unitary constitution. The chances are that the people would be more genuinely united". Noting that Nigeria has a larger population and greater cultural diversity than its smaller neighbor, the editorial concludes that the constitutional situation in the Gold Coast "underlines the fact that the creation of more states in Nigeria within reasonable bounds can do the country no harm".

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The significance of the editorial lies not so much in its re-affirmation of the well-known AG advocacy of strong regional powers but rather in the fact that it used the Gold Coast as an example for its argument. Straight news despatches from the Gold Coast rarely appear in Nigerian papers; discussion of Gold Coast political trends or progress is almost non-existent. Following the recent unofficial visit of the Prime Minister NKRUMAH to Nigeria (See Despatch No. 41, page 3), several Nigerians, who purported to be officers of the Nigerian Branch of the C.P.P., called at the Consulate General to request that they be placed on the distribution list for USIS publications for an Information Center which they planned to establish. Although this might indicate that the C.P.P. is interested in extending its influence in Nigeria, the party has as yet made no appreciable dent on the local political scene.

Western Local Elections (UNCLASSIFIED)

In contrast to the NCNC successes in local and bye-elections reported in the referenced despatch, the AG has shown surprising strength in subsequent elections to local and district councils in the Western Region. In the district council elections at Ikeja, Mushin, Ondo, Ife, and Isoko, candidates under the AG label, either alone or in combination with independents, obtained party control of the local councils.

In the Benin-Delta area, however, the NCNC continued its control over most of the councils, but with reduced majorities and the loss of several districts.

Investigation of Ibadan District Council (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mr. E. W. J. NICHOLSON's Commission of Inquiry into the workings of the Ibadan District Council has completed its hearings at Ibadan. Since no further action is probable until the Commissioner has

prepared his report and submitted it to the Western Regional Government, the Council will continue to function under the chairmanship of Federal Minister ADELABU.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

From the evidence which was presented to the inquiry it is doubtful that the Commissioner will urge the dissolution of the Council. He will probably content himself with recommending a tightening of the Council's employment and disbursement procedures and propose efforts to effect a more cooperative attitude between the elected (NCNC) and the traditional members of the Council.

Western Oba Dies on BOAC Crash (UNCLASSIFIED)

Oba Joel ADEBOYE, the Orimolusi of Ijebu Igbo, was the only Nigerian among the 15 passengers who were killed in the crash of a BOAC plane at Tripoli on September 21. The Oba, who was reputed to be one of the better-educated and liberal chieftains, was returning to Lagos from a two-week visit to the United Kingdom where he had attended the Cocoa Alliance Conference.

More

Dandago Appointed Deputy Speaker to Federal House (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mallam Bello DANDAGO, Chief Whip of the Northern Peoples Congress Party (NPC) in the Federal House of Representatives, has been appointed Deputy Speaker of the House by Governor General Sir James ROBERTSON. Mallam Bello is the first appointee to the post which has been vacant since its establishment on October 1, 1954, under the revised constitution.

Aged 48, Mallam Bello was educated in Northern Provincial and primary schools and at the teacher training college at Katsina. After teaching in the Kano Middle School for nine years, he went to the Gold Coast in 1941 as a Hausa broadcasting officer, where he remained until appointed Wakilin Waje of Kano in 1948. He became a district head in 1953 and, as such, participated in the selection of the present Emir of Kano. Dandago has been a respected member of the Federal House of Representatives since 1951 and is one of the few Northern representatives who have participated intelligently in the House's debates.

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ECONOMIC SECTION

Cocoa Outlook (UNCLASSIFIED)

Judging from optimistic reports concerning the world market, Nigerian cocoa producers have every reason to expect an upswing in the cocoa trade in the near future according to the Director of the Central Marketing and Export Boards. Although it is as yet too early to predict the prevailing market price of the present 1955-56 crop or the actual size of the crop, itself, he states that in his opinion there is every reason to believe that the crop will be better than the 1954-55 crop, with increased world prices encouraging further planting. He also stated that work is progressing steadily on a research program with a view to eradicating, or at least suppressing, the diseases which have in recent years sorely plagued the Nigerian cocoa crop.

There are recent indications that cocoa prices have reached a level where buyers will again be interested. A group of British buyers recently bought 30,000 tons of Accra cocoa at £12/10/- per cwt. Other consumers on the continent have also shown signs of willingness to buy at current prices. It is expected that a revival in world consumption, now that prices are less than half the record peak of 1954, is only a matter of time.

A delegation of cocoa manufacturers from Europe is expected to visit the cocoa-growing countries of West Africa sometime later this year. This was one of the resolutions taken at the recent world cocoa conference in London. Most of the manufacturers present made it clear that they expected West Africa to dominate the raw cocoa market for many years to come.

Government Regulation of Agriculture (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Government of Eastern Nigeria is expected to introduce a law to regulate the planting ofagricultural crops. Plant and pest diseases will also be controlled. The proposed law will create a Board of Agriculture to advise the Minister of Agriculture. The law would, among other things, regulate the distribution of weeds, prohibit or restrict bush burning and the use of artificial fertilizers. Under the proposed law, the Minister of Agriculture will appoint examiners to carry out its provisions, which include the main provisions of the current Agricultural Ordinance. The producers of various crops will be represented on the Board of Agriculture by eight members.

Decrease in Nigeria's Export Trade (UNCLASSIFIED)

Final figures which have just been completed show that Nigeria's export trade for the first three months of 1955 dropped by £6,000,000 compared to the corresponding period of 1954 but equalled the figure for the same period of 1953. On the other hand, the value of the

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countries imports under review was greater than the corresponding periods of 1953 and 1954. According to the Nigerian Trade Journal, the reason for this was principally a reduction of more than £8,000,000 in the value of goods consigned to the United Kingdom.

Nigeria had a favorable trade balance of £5,000,000 during the period under review. This figure, however, was considerably lower than the figures for the corresponding periods in 1953 and last year which were £10,000,000 and £14,000,000 respectively.

The drop in exports to the United Kingdom was partly offset by increases in the values of exports to non-sterling blocs which rose by approximately £3,000,000 although the value of Nigeria's imports from that area increased by less than £1,500,000.

New Industries for the Eastern Region (UNCLASSIFIED)

It has recently been announced by Dr. Namdi AZIKIWE, Premier of the Eastern Region, that a large scale paper factory and a sugar refinery are two of four new industries scheduled to be established in the East in the near future. Industries for the manufacture of diesel oil from palm oil and gari from cassava will also be established. The Premier also revealed that capital totalling £200,000 had been allotted to the Eastern Nigeria Printing Corporation to enable it to buy modern equipment.

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LABOR

E. Njoku to Arbitrate C.D.C. Wage Dispute (UNCLASSIFIED)

Dr. Eni NJOKU, Senior Lecturer at University College, Ibadan and former Central Minister of Mines and Power, has been appointed to arbitrate the wage dispute between the Cameroons Development Corporation and the C.D.C. Workers Union. To date, the corporation has agreed to pay only half of the union's demands for a 15% increase for daily paid workers and 10% for established (salaried) staff.

ICFTU Activities in Nigeria (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mr. Hilton E. HANNA, a representative of the United States Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Union, is scheduled to spend several weeks in Nigeria as the guest of the All Nigeria Trade Union Federation (ANTUF) before proceeding to the Gold Coast to participate as a teacher in ICFTU's international school, which is scheduled to hold a short course there on October 30. An American Negro who has been active in trade union organizational and educational activities, Mr. Hannah is expected to tour Nigeria to lecture on the history and organizational patterns of American unions.

ICFTU headquarters have announced that at least five scholarships would be awarded to Nigerian trade unionists for the forthcoming Accra course. As a result of the trip of which he made to the International Railwaymen's Conference at Bonn, Switzerland, Mr. Lewis AGONSI, general secretary of the Nigerian Railway Technical Staff Association, obtained three scholarship awards for members of his association.

It has been announced that subsequent ICFTU courses will be held at Aba and Enugu in January 1956 and that lecturers will include the President of the Gold Coast TUC, Mr. F. E. TACHIE-MENSON.

Eastern Government Advises Local Councils Re Wage Increases (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Eastern Ministry of Internal Affairs has officially warned all local government bodies that they should carefully examine the question of staff salary levels in the light of the recent Gorsuch increases for Regional Government employees. The circular states that most of the revisions would entail an over-all increase of at least 20% in staff salaries and 25% for daily paid workers. Councils are advised to negotiate with employee representatives and to submit proposed new salary levels to the ministry. The circular firmly states that local government bodies cannot expect financial assistance from the Regional Government and should be careful to make no wage commitments for which funds are not available.

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EDUCATION

76 Federal Scholarships Awarded -- None to US (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Federal Government has announced the award of 76 scholarships for the '55-6 academic year. More than half of the awards are for study at Nigerian institutions. Of the remainder, all except one travelling art fellowship are for studies in the United Kingdom. The NCNC's West African Pilot headlined the list of successful candidates: "No Award for Studies in USA".

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

In the past, few if any original government awards have been given for study in the United States, but a few Regional and Federal grants have been forthcoming each year to assist students who have already completed a portion of their studies in the US.

During her recent visit to the University College at Ibadan, Congresswoman Bolton remarked to the College's president, Mr. SAUNDERS, that she had heard a great deal of criticism as to official reluctance to send Nigerian students to American schools as well as a disinclination to utilize American-educated students upon their return to Nigeria. Although he made no reply at the time, Dr. Saunders subsequently approached the PAO and suggested that a future discussion of the problem should be held.

MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Visit of William Berry (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mr. Berry, an officer of DRN/OIR, Department of State, has arrived in Lagos for a month's study of Nigerian political and labor developments. After several days in Lagos, Mr. Berry will visit the Regional capitals. He is expected to depart Nigeria for the Gold Coast on October 30.

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